

MEMO

DATE: March 6, 2008

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Jacob Lieb, Program Manager, (213) 236-1921, lieb@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Task Forces and Working Groups Reporting to EEC

BACKGROUND:

A number of Task Forces and Working Groups report to the Energy and Environment Committee. The President has asked that each Policy Committee review the makeup and charge of each of these groups, and to discuss options for the most useful structure for the future. Options may include continuing the current structure, combining the functions of groups, or forming groups on an ad-hoc basis.

The EEC has the following standing task forces –

Solid Waste Task Force

This group is made up of EEC members, professionals in the field, and experts. Discussions cover a range of solid waste issues, with a particular interest in conversion technologies and legislative advocacy. The Solid Waste Task Force meets monthly.

Water Policy Task Force

This group is made up of EEC members as well as members of other SCAG policy committees, experts, and representatives of most water agencies in the SCAG region. The task force features outside presenters at most meetings, and functions as an information sharing and discussion forum. The Task Force meets quarterly.

Currently, the EEC also has the following special purpose working groups –

Open Space Working Group

The Open Space Working Group was formed in order to provide input to SCAG on the development of the Open Space and Habitat Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. The Working Group consists of EEC members, members of other policy committees, experts, practitioners, and environmental advocacy groups. The group met on an as-needed basis during 2006-7.

Energy Working Group

The Energy Working Group was formed in order to provide input to SCAG on the development of the Energy Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. The Working Group consists of EEC members, experts, practitioners, and environmental advocacy groups. The group met on a monthly basis during 2006-7, and more sporadically in recent months.

In addition to these groups that report directly to EEC, EEC members serve on the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force, under the purview of the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee. The RCP Task Force directs staff on the development of the RCP. The RCP itself, however, contains five

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chapters on environmental topics, and the EEC has purview over those chapters (energy, water, solid waste, air quality, and open space).

Upon the completion of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, the RCP Task Force, the Energy Working Group, and the Open Space Working Group no longer have specific charges. While these groups can continue to play a useful role in planning and public process for SCAG, it is appropriate to reconsider the purpose, makeup, and structure of these groups.

At this time, staff, at the direction of the President, is seeking the input and discussion of the EEC on the groups and task forces it oversees. In particular, staff is interested in how the task force structure might be best used to create inter-disciplinary discussion, and reinforce the multiple benefits concept embedded in the RCP.


FISCAL IMPACT:

Information only at this time. Environmental planning activities are included in the Overall Work Program (08-020, Environmental Planning; 08-035, Regional Comprehensive Plan; and 08-025, Air Quality)

Reviewed by:


Division Manager

Reviewed by:


Department Director

Reviewed by:


Chief Financial Officer